

resolution being then assented to, were sent to the senate for their concurrence therein.

Mr. Barnes asked and obtained leave of the house, to introduce a bill, to be entitled, A supplement to the act, entitled, An act to incorporate the Maryland Hospital. Ordered, That Messrs. Barnes, Dennis and Peter, be a committee to prepare and report the bill. Whereupon Mr. Barnes accordingly reported said bill, which was read a first, and by a special order, a second time, considered, passed without amendment, and sent to the senate for concurrence.

Mr. Norris being in the chair, and presiding,

Mr. Speaker submitted the following report from the committee on ways and means; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table, to wit:

The committee of ways and means further report, That in presenting their financial scheme to the house, they endeavoured to equalize taxation as much as the nature of the present system would admit; they considered that the system of finance hitherto in operation in the state, was not to be relied on, to a greater extent, than for a sufficiency to defray the ordinary expenses of government, and that if the state looked to works of internal improvement, or to a general system of public education, that the system must be changed, and an equal ratio of taxation established throughout the state. Contingent sources of revenue, depending upon the luxuries, the vices, the casualties, or the necessary consumption of society, are not to be relied on, and the state should abandon the idea of following in the march of improvement, and be content, to remain ignorant and inactive until her resources are drawn through other channels than the vices and necessities of her citizens.

Your committee had not time, and they doubted their experience, to attempt to remodel the whole system of finance. They were well aware that great inequality existed in the imposition of taxes, and that while financiers were professing to draw the revenue from the wealthy sections of the state, and were devising schemes to gull the agriculturist, by indirect taxes, which, while they professed to replenish the treasury by contributions from the capitalists and the dealer in the form of licenses, taxes upon offices, &c. were but drawing upon the comforts, necessities and misfortunes of life. Those attempts at deception are vain and unnecessary, for while the revenue is derived directly and indirectly from the agriculturists, the stockholder, speculator and wealthy capitalists, do not contribute their ratio to support the government that protects them, their families, their fame and their wealth, in proportion to the value of their property; the agriculturist is not to be persuaded that he contributes only his ratio, and that others are taxed in proportion to their wealth. There is but